

HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Democratic Caucus

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Republicans Fail on the Environment

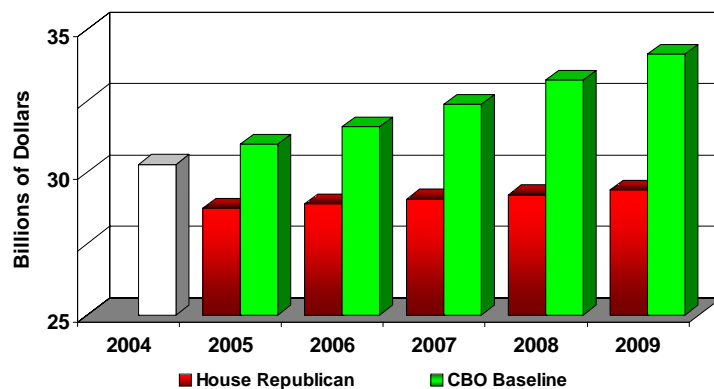
The President and House Republicans tout their environmental commitment, but reality does not match the rhetoric. The President's budget drastically cuts environmental protection programs and rekindles previous proposals that the American people and Congress have flatly rejected. During this year's budget process, House Republicans had the opportunity to remedy this shortcoming and make a true commitment to our most treasured resources. Instead of living up to the rhetoric, House Republicans cut funds to protect our environment and voted against increasing funding for vital environmental programs. In yet another misplaced priority, Republicans chose to support tax cuts over investments in clean air, safe drinking water, and the cleanup of toxic waste sites.

Republicans Ignore Environmental Protection — House Republicans provided only \$28.7 billion in discretionary funds in 2005, a cut of \$1.5 billion (5.1 percent) from last year's level. Republicans unanimously voted against a Democratic amendment increasing funding for clean air, safe drinking water, and conservation measures by \$2.2 billion in 2005.

Environment Will Suffer for Years to Come — From 2005-2009, House Republicans provided 10.5 percent less than what is needed to maintain current services at the 2004 level. More noteworthy, their funding levels in 2009 will still be \$901 million below the 2004 enacted level. Simply stated, the Republican budget cuts the federal commitment to environmental protection.

Republican Budget Undermines Environmental Protection

Function 300 Discretionary



Republicans Support President's Environmental "Priorities" — Similar to the President's budget, the Republican budget drastically ignores true environmental needs, sharing the President's misplaced environmental "priorities" in the process:

- ***Clean water and drinking water needs will be ignored*** as water quality funding (State Revolving Funds and water infrastructure) cuts will not be restored;
- ***Our nation's farmers and ranchers will be abandoned*** as vital Farm Bill conservation programs will not be reinstated;
- ***Groundwater contamination will continue*** as funding cuts to prevent leaking petroleum and MTBE from contaminating water supplies will remain;
- ***Our most pressing conservation, recreation, wildlife, and preservation needs will be shortchanged*** as the pledge to fully fund the conservation spending category will go unfulfilled; and
- ***Taxpayers will pay the bill for corporate polluters*** as the "polluter pays" principle will be abandoned and corporate polluters will not be held accountable for their hazardous waste cleanup.

Democrats Have Real Environmental Priorities

Democrats firmly believe in the public's inherent right to clean air and safe drinking water. During the floor debate on the budget next week, Democrats will continue to address the priorities that Republicans have misplaced, reinforcing our long-standing commitment to environmental conservation, protection, and preservation programs.